

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 247123

64

ORIGIN OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 PA-02

PRS-01 FEA-01 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01

CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02

OES-05 OMB-01 PM-04 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /182 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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UNCLAS STATE 247123

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UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 247123

TAGS: OCON, MX, CA, FR, CS, JA

SUBJECT:US EMBARGOES TUNA FROM SPAIN

REF: A. STATE 224734; B. STATE 224961

1. ROBERT SCHONING, DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, NOAA, DEPT OF COMMERCE, ISSUED PRESS RELEASE DATED OCT. 14 ANNOUNCING THAT USG WOULD IMPOSE EMBARGO ON IMPORTS OF YELLOWFIN TUNA FROM SPAIN. ARTICLE APPEARED IN

WASHINGTON POST OCT. 16. ANNOUNCEMENT OF EMBARGO WAS PUBLISHED IN FEDERAL REGISTER OCT. 14. FULL TEXT OF RELEASE REPRODUCED BELOW:

2. BEGIN TEXT: AN EMBARGO ON YELLOWFIN TUNA IMPORTED FROM SPAIN WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY BY ROBERT W. SCHONING, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, A PART OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION. THE EMBARGO, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, INCLUDES YELLOWFIN TUNA IN ANY FORM WHETHER IT IS RECEIVED IN THE UNITED STATES EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM SPAIN.

IMPORTS WILL BE PERMITTED IF AN AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT CERTIFIES THAT THE TUNA BEING IMPORTED

WAS NOT HARVESTED IN THE REGULATED AREA. THE CERTIFICATE MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION SIGNED BY A UNITED STATES CONSULAR OFFICIAL.

"THE EMBARGO OF TUNA FROM SPAIN WILL NOT SIGNIFICANTLY LESSEN THE SUPPLY AVAILABLE TO THE U.S. CONSUMER," MR. SCHONING SAID. "HOWEVER, IMPOSITION OF THE EMBARGO IS NECESSARY TO UPHOLD THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION CONSERVATION REGIME, AND TO RECTIFY AN INEQUITABLE CONDITION WHICH PLACES U.S. FISHERMEN AT A SERIOUS COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE."

THE ACTION WAS TAKEN AFTER INVESTIGATIONS BY THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT AGENCY REVEALED THAT SPAIN:

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 247123

-- CONDUCTS FISHING WITH VESSELS THAT CONSTITUTE A SIGNIFICANT FISHING EFFORT IN RELATION TO THE TOTAL QUANTITY OF YELLOWFIN TAKEN IN THE REGULATED AREA;

-- IS TAKING YELLOWFIN TUNA FROM THE REGULATED AREA OF THE IATTC IN A MANNER THAT DIMINISHES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION;

-- HAS TAKEN APPROXIMATELY 2,500 TONS OF YELLOWFIN TUNA FROM THE CONTROLLED AREA CONTRARY TO IATTC RECOMMENDATIONS SINCE THE SEASON CLOSED ON MARCH 13;

-- DOES NOT HAVE IN FORCE ADEQUATE CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR ITS FISHERMEN WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE IATTC CONSERVATION MEASURES; AND

-- DOES NOT HAVE ANY MEANS TO CONTROL LANDINGS BY ITS FISHERMEN OR FISHERMEN OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHO ARE TAKING YELLOWFIN IN SUCH A WAY AS TO DIMINISH THE CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION.

SCHONING INDICATED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS CONTINUING TO MONITOR OTHER POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF THE CONSERVATION REGIME AND THAT AN EMBARGO COULD BE PLACED ON OTHER COUNTRIES IF SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS IS OBTAINED.

THE REGULATORY AREA IS IN THE EASTERN TROPICAL PACIFIC, AND EXTENDS FROM THE COAST OF MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES TO THE WEST.

THE EMBARGO WILL BE LIFTED WHEN IT IS DETERMINED THAT THE FISHING ACTIVITIES OF THE SPANISH VESSELS ARE IN

--

ACCORD WITH THE CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE IATTC.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE EMBARGO WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER OF OCTOBER 14.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 247123

IN 1974, THE UNITED STATES IMPORTED APPROXIMATELY 109 MILLION POUNDS OF YELLOWFIN TUNA, OF WHICH ABOUT 700 THOUSAND POUNDS CAME FROM SPAIN. THE U.S. CATCH OF YELLOWFIN TUNA IN 1974 WAS 336 MILLION POUNDS. TOTAL IMPORTS OF ALL TYPES OF TUNA, BOTH FRESH AND FROZEN, WERE ALMOST 800 MILLION POUNDS IN 1974, AND AN ADDITIONAL 53 MILLION POUNDS OF CANNED TUNA WERE IMPORTED.

END TEXT. INGERSOLL

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